

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 8. (canceled)

1           9. (new) An apparatus for applying a coating liquid to a  
2 web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus comprising:

3           a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending  
4 transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in  
5 and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending  
6 between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of  
7 the direction;

8           means for supplying the coating liquid to the chamber,  
9 thence through the slot to the flow face, and thence along the flow  
10 face and for dropping the liquid as a transversely extending and  
11 downwardly flowing curtain from an edge of the flow face onto the  
12 web;

13           a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper  
14 guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable  
15 complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in  
16 a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit  
17 liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely  
18 confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain; and

19           means for transversely positioning the edge guides and  
20 thereby adjusting the curtain width.

1           10. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2 wherein each edge guide further comprises a lower guide having an  
3 inner face aligned vertically with the face of the respective upper  
4 guide, the lower guides being fixed to and transversely  
5 displaceable with the respective upper guides.

1           11. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10,  
2 further comprising  
3 means at lower ends of the lower guides for aspirating  
4 the coating liquid.

1           12. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10,  
2 further comprising  
3 means for releasably securing the lower guides to the  
4 respective upper guides.

1           13. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 12  
2 wherein the releasable securing means includes finger-operable  
3 screws.

1           14. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2 wherein the flow-face edge is curved and fits with the upper guide  
3 element.

1           15. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2 wherein the flow face inclines downward from the slot to the edge.

1           16. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9  
2 wherein the hopper has a supply passage opening generally centrally  
3 into the chamber, the supply means being connected via the passage  
4 to the chamber.

1           17. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 16,  
2 further comprising:  
3           a pair of transversely spaced inserts each substantially  
4 blocking the slot and the chamber; and  
5           means for transversely displacing the inserts and thereby  
6 setting a transverse width of the chamber and slot.

1           18. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 17,  
2 further comprising  
3           structure linking the inserts to the respective guides  
4 for joint transverse displacement therewith, the inserts having  
5 confronting inner faces aligned vertically with the faces of the  
6 upper guides.

1           19. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 18  
2 wherein the hopper includes end plates laterally flanking the  
3 inserts and the chambers, the structure including rods passing  
4 transversely through the end plates and having inner ends fixed to  
5 the inserts.

1           20. (new) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9,  
2 further comprising  
3           means for lifting the upper guides off the flow face  
4 during transverse displacement of the upper guides.